

(Bulletin for Statehouse, Capitol Mall Employees October 9, 2001)

Department of Administration  
Construction Update No. 10

## Concrete Poured for Step Support Beams, Curing Follows

The concrete support beams have been poured and forms have been stripped as part of the continuing work on the replacement of the East Steps of the Statehouse, as the First Phase of the **Idaho Capitol Restoration** effort continues.

The beams with their newly poured concrete now need to cure a minimum of seven days before other work can be built on top of the supports.

According to **Jan Frew**, Design and Construction Manager for the Division of Public Works, the next work activity will be to first form a cross beam spanning the supports now in place, and then to form the actual stairs. In each of these activities, additional steel reinforcing bars will be placed in the forms prior to the concrete being poured into those areas.

Tedious repair work continues on the **mortar joints** of the Capitol Building's sandstone walls. The architectural consultants are identifying specific joints to be replaced. The contractor then removes the existing material by sawing, careful chipping and scraping. Then, the new material is placed in the joints and the architectural consultant inspects the work to ensure the installation has been done correctly.

**Stone pieces** have also been ordered for the exterior surface repair and are expected on site soon. Cleaning methods are still being tested to find the most effective method for treating the different stains and organic growth on the building. Frew explained it is "exacting work". The first tests done with the tiny sponges looked great, but microscopic analysis of stone cleaned with this method showed that the protective surface of the stone was actually blasted off. This would be detrimental to the stone, causing it to deteriorate more rapidly than what would occur naturally. The sponges may still be effective if applied at a lower pressure, she added.



**Workers began pouring concrete into the newly constructed support beams of the East Steps last Friday, removing the forms on Tuesday, (Oct. 9). Concrete now has to cure for a least a week.**

**Please note:** The intent of **Renewal News** is to provide readers the most current and complete information as possible regarding construction activities during the Capitol Restoration project. However, construction schedules are always subject to change, based upon weather conditions, transport and acquisition of support equipment and personnel, or other unforeseen circumstances. Inquiries, comments on the Restoration effort can be sent to **Diane Blume** [dblume@adm.state.id.us](mailto:dblume@adm.state.id.us) **Renewal News** online at: <http://www.capitolcommission.idaho.gov/restoration/renewalnews.htm>  
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